directives to all State Governments that all vehicles plying in their respective States must have a specific type of licence plate within the next few months;

(b) if so, the details of this circular or advisory or directive issued by Government to ensrue that people in India use only one type of licence plate;

(c) whether Government have also fixed the price of this licence plate;

(d) what would be the penalties if State Governments refuse to heed this warning of Central Government; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) In terms of rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, amended in the year 2001 and as per the last notification issued by Central Government on 13th January, 2005, the High Security Registration Plates were to be used on newly registered motor vehicles throughout the country on or before 31st May, 2005 and within a period of two years thereafter on already registered vehicles. As per information available, none of the State/UTs has yet implemented the scheme. The States/UTs have been advised on several occasions (the last on 25th November, 2005) to speed up the process of implementation.

(c) No, Sir. The cost of new High Security Registration Plates would be known only after the competitive process of selection of vendors by the States/UTs is completed.

(d) and (e) Implementation of the provisions of Central Motor Vehicles Rules is the responsibility of States/UTs. Hence, the question of any warning by the Central Government or any penalty on the States for not heeding such warning does not arise.

Expenditure incurred on the development of NHs and Golden Quadrilateral

†3599. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from infrastructural development point of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

view in the country Government have fixed the target to invest one lac and eighty thousand crore rupees on the construction and development of National Highways and Golden Quadrilateral roads;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the last financial year the work has been allotted to the contractors to construct about 6000 Km. stretch of the National Highways in four lanes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and National Highways, number-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, has decided for the improvement of National Highways under various phases (phase I to VII) of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) involving an investment of Rs. 2,20,000 crore.

(b) and (c) State-wise and National Highway-wise details of contracts awarded during the last financial year are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 207 Annexure No. 13].

Detection of foreign spy in space

†3600. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the presence of a foreign pay satellite within the space confines of country has been detected during the last five years till today;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of detection of foreign spy satellite in country's space limits during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, foreign satellites do orbit in international space territory and collect information on all parts of the earth including India.

(c) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.